

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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For Release: **IMMEDIATE**  
Date: March 11, 2003

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### **GOV. EASLEY REQUESTS FEDERAL DISASTER AID FOR FEBRUARY ICE STORM**

**RALEIGH** – For the second time since last December, Gov. Mike Easley has requested a federal disaster declaration for North Carolina to reimburse state government and affected counties for costs associated with an ice storm.

“Preliminary response and recovery costs exceed \$16 million to nine counties in the piedmont,” Easley said of the most recent, Feb. 27-28 storm. “Ice accumulations were up to one inch and trees, limbs and utility lines were knocked down. More than 425,000 homes and businesses were without power, some for more than four days. Federal assistance is needed to help us recover from this event.”

Easley declared a state of disaster Monday in Alamance, Caswell, Forsyth, Granville, Guilford, Orange, Person, Rockingham and Stokes counties. He had declared a state of emergency on Feb. 28 to help in response and recovery efforts, such as waiving weight and width limits for utility vehicles.

If the request for assistance is provided, state and local governments and electric membership cooperatives will be eligible for federal aid to help pay the costs of personnel and equipment incurred in storm response. The Federal Emergency Management Commission is being asked to pay 75 percent of the costs; the governor has already pledged to pay the remaining 25 percent.

A preliminary damage assessment shows \$1.48 million incurred by the publicly owned electric companies. The Department of Transportation reports \$12 million so far in cleanup costs.

Damage estimates for the counties are as follows: Alamance, \$476,993; Caswell, \$1,215,650; Forsyth, \$5,209,980; Granville, \$802,000; Guilford, \$4,778,347; Orange, \$670,000; Person, \$559,000; Rockingham, \$2,539,001; and Stokes, \$345,919.

In the aftermath of the Dec. 4-5, 2002 storm, the president declared 43 counties as disaster areas and nearly \$43 million in FEMA assistance has been provided thus far.

Federal disaster aid in snow and ice events typically involves reimbursement of overtime pay for emergency workers and operating costs for emergency services. The federal government’s formula on paying for debris removal is based on factors including the type and amount of debris to be removed, whether its location is a threat to public safety, and the disposal method.

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